AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended): A method for end node partitioning for a physical element, comprising the steps of:

selecting a configuration of the physical element, said physical element including a plurality of ports;

probing [[a port]] one of said plurality of ports that is included within said physical element, wherein the port is probed with a subnet management packet by a subnet manager;

in response to determining that said physical element is a particular type of physical element, partitioning said physical element to provide a plurality of virtual representations of said physical element, each one of said plurality of virtual representations having a unique access control level; and

partitioning said physical element by in response to detecting a switch associated with the port, assigning a different local identifier to the port each one of said plurality of ports that is included within said physical element resulting in a configuration change of the physical element.

2.   (Original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein selecting the configuration of the physical element includes a static selection of the physical element and a dynamic selection of the physical element.

3.   (Original): The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising:

in response to a static selection of the physical element, modifying the configuration of the physical element through at least one of a fabric initialization and a reboot of a node associated with the port.

4.   (Original): The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising:

in response to a dynamic selection of the physical element, modifying the configuration of the physical element through a reboot of a node associated with the port.

5.   (Currently amended): The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

        said physical element being one of a switch, a target channel adapter, and a host channel adapter.

        in response to determining an additional port associated with the switch, assigning a local identifier to the additional port.

6.   (Original): The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

        in response to a host channel adapter and a host node becoming operational, reporting the host channel adapters and host processor node as they become operational.

7.   (Original): The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

        in response to removing a host channel adapter and a host node from operation, reporting the removal of the host channel adapter and the host node from operation.

8.   (Original): The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

        connecting one or more operating system images to at least one host channel adapter.

9.   (Original): The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the host channel adapter is a virtual host channel adapter.

10-12. (Canceled)

13.   (Currently amended): A system for end node partitioning for a physical element, comprising:

        a selection component for selecting a configuration of the physical element, said physical element including a plurality of ports;

        a probing component for probing one of said plurality of ports that is included within said physical element [[a port]], wherein the port is probed with a subnet management packet by a subnet manager;

in response to determining that said physical element is a particular type of physical element, partitioning means for partitioning said physical element to provide a plurality of virtual representations of said physical element, each one of said plurality of virtual representations having a unique access control level; and

an assignment component for partitioning said physical element by , in response to detecting a switch associated with the port, for assigning a different local identifier to the port each one of said plurality of ports that is included within said physical element resulting in a configuration change of the physical element.

14.   (Original): The system as recited in claim 13, wherein selecting the configuration of the physical element includes a static selection of the physical element and a dynamic selection of the physical element.

15.   (Original): The system as recited in claim 14, further comprising:
a modification component, in response to a static selection of the physical element, for modifying the configuration of the physical element through at least one of a fabric initialization and a reboot of a node associated with the port.

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Currently amended): The system as recited in claim 13, further comprising:
said physical element being one of a switch, a target channel adapter, and a host channel adapter.
the assignment component, in response to determining an additional port associated with the switch, assigns a local identifier to the additional port.

18.   (Original): The system as recited in claim 13, further comprising:
a reporting component, in response to a host channel adapter and a host node becoming operational, for reporting the host channel adapter and host processor node as they become operational.

19. (Original): The system as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

a reporting component, in response to removing a host channel adapter and a host node from operation, reporting the removal of the host channel adapter and the host node from operation.

20. (Original): The system as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

a connection component for connecting one or more operating system images to at least one host channel adapter.

21. (Original): The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the host channel adapter is a virtual host channel adapter.

22. (Currently amended): A computer program product in a computer readable medium for end node partitioning for a physical element, comprising:

instructions for selecting a configuration of the physical element, said physical element including a plurality of ports;

instructions for probing one of said plurality of ports that is included within said physical element [[a port]], wherein the port is probed with a subnet management packet by a subnet manager;

in response to determining that said physical element is a particular type of physical element, instructions for partitioning said physical element to provide a plurality of virtual representations of said physical element, each one of said plurality of virtual representations having a unique access control level; and

instructions for partitioning said physical element by ~in response to detecting a switch associated with the port, for assigning a different local identifier to the port each one of said plurality of ports that is included within said physical element resulting in a configuration change of the physical element.

23. (Original): The computer program product as recited in claim 22, wherein selecting the configuration of the physical element includes a static selection of the physical element and a dynamic selection of the physical element.

24.   (Original): The computer program product as recited in claim 23, further
comprising:

instructions, in response to a static selection of the physical element, for
modifying the configuration of the physical element through at least one of a fabric
initialization and a reboot of a node associated with the port.

25.   (Original): The computer program product as recited in claim 23, further
comprising:

instructions, in response to a dynamic selection of the physical element, for
modifying the configuration of the physical element through a reboot of a node
associated with the port.

26.   (Currently amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 23,
further comprising:

said physical element being one of a switch, a target channel adapter, and a host
channel adapter.

~~instructions, in response to determining an additional port associated with the
switch, for assigning a local identifier to the additional port.~~

27.   (Currently amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 23,
further comprising:

instructions, in response to a host channel adapter and a host node becoming
operational, for reporting ~~eporting~~ the host channel adapters and host processor node as
they become operational.

28.   (Original): The computer program product as recited in claim 23, further
comprising:

Instructions, in response to removing a host channel adapter and a host node from
operation, for reporting removal of the host channel adapter and the host node from
operation.

29.   (Original): The computer program product as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

Instructions for connecting one or more operating system images to at least one host channel adapter.

30.   (Original): The computer program product as recited in claim 29, wherein the host channel adapter is a virtual host channel adapter.